

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a data storage system including data storage media having at least one rotatable recording surface, a method for storing data segments to said recording surface in concentric data tracks, comprising the steps of:
recording at least one set of data segments onto said recording surface, each
5 recorded data segment including a start, an end and a rotational phase from that data segment to each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, wherein the data segments are recorded with coherent relative rotational phases, wherein each data segment includes one or more tracks, wherein the rotational phase from one data segment to other data segments is selected as a function of the size of the data segments.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of recording the data segments further includes the steps of recording the data segments such that each data segment further has: (i) a relative start phase from the start of that data segment to the start of each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, and (ii) a relative
5 end phase from the end of that data segment to each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, wherein the data segments are recorded with coherent relative start phases and coherent relative end phases.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes the steps of recording the data segments such that for each data segment in the set: said relative start, end and rotational phases of that data segment to respective ones of all other data segments in the set are predetermined.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein for each data segment in the set: the rotational phases from that data segment to respective ones of all other data segments in the set comprise the rotational phases from the end of that data segment to the start of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes the steps of recording the data segments such that for each data segment in the set the rotational phase for that data segment relative to each of the other data segments in the set has one of a limited number of predetermined values.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes the steps of recording the data segments such that for each data segment in the set: the relative rotational phases from that data segment to respective ones of a first subset of the data segments in the set have one of said
5 predetermined values, and the relative rotational phase from that data segment to respective ones of a second subset of the data segments in the set have another of said predetermined values.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes the steps of recording the data segments such that for each data segment in the set the relative rotational phases from that data segment to respective ones of the other data segments in the set are the same.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of recording data segments further includes the steps of recording each data segment such that data tracks in that data segment are offset by a predetermined skew angle.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the storage system comprises a disk drive including said data storage media rotated by a spindle motor, a data transducer assembly positionable at concentric data track locations on the recording media by an actuator controlled by a servo circuit, and wherein said predetermined skew angle is
5 selected to minimize rotational latency as the transducer is positioned over adjacent tracks within a data segment.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the segments are recorded so as to obtain a nearly constant data storage transfer rate when transferring data to and/or from the segments.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of receiving one or more incoming data streams and partitioning each incoming data stream into data segments before recording on the media.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of partitioning each data stream further comprises the steps of partitioning that data stream into data segments of equal size.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of partitioning each data stream further comprises the steps of partitioning that data stream into data segments, each data segment including one or more tracks in size.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:
reading the recorded data segments from the storage media, and
reformulating said one or more data streams from the read data segments.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes recording the data segments on the storage media so as to obtain a substantially deterministic data transfer rate to and from the data storage media.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes the steps of recording the data segments such that for each data segment in the set: said relative rotational phases of that data segment to respective ones

of all the other data segments in the set are predetermined independent of the start or end
5 track of that data segment.

21. (currently amended) A data storage pattern for storing information on a
recording surface of recording media in a storage system, said pattern including at least
one set of segments for storing user data in concentric data tracks on the recording
surface, wherein each segment includes a start, an end and a rotational phase from that
5 segment to each of the respective ones of all other segments in the set such that the
segments have coherent relative rotational phases, wherein each segment includes one or
more tracks,

wherein for each segment in the set: the relative rotational phases from that
segment to respective ones of a first subset of the segments in the set have one of said
10 predetermined values, and the relative rotational phase from that segment to respective
ones of a second subset of the segments in the set have another of said predetermined
values.

22. (Original) The pattern of claim 21, wherein each segment further includes: (i)
a relative start phase from the start of that segment to the start of each of the respective
ones of all other segments in the set, and (ii) a relative end phase from the end of that
segment to each of the respective ones of all other segments in the set, wherein the
5 segments have coherent relative start phases and coherent relative end phases.

23. (Original) The pattern of claim 22 wherein for each segment in the set: said relative start, end and rotational phases of that segment to respective ones of all other segments in the set are predetermined.

24. (Original) The pattern of claim 22, wherein for each segment in the set: the rotational phases from that segment to respective ones of all other segments in the set comprise the rotational phases from the end of that segment to the start of the respective ones of all other segments in the set.

25. (Original) The pattern of claim 24, wherein for each segment in the set the rotational phase for that segment relative to each of the other segments in the set has one of a limited number of predetermined values.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The pattern of claim 24, wherein for each segment in the set the relative rotational phases from that segment to respective ones of the other segments in the set are the same.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) The pattern of claim 21, wherein data tracks in each segment in the set are offset by a predetermined skew angle.

30. (Original) The pattern of claim 29, wherein the storage system comprises a disk drive including said data storage media rotated by a spindle motor, a data transducer assembly positionable at concentric data track locations on the recording media by an actuator controlled by a servo circuit, and wherein said predetermined skew angle is selected to minimize rotational latency as the transducer is positioned over adjacent tracks within a segment.

31-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) The pattern of claim 21, wherein for each segment in the set: said relative rotational phases of that segment to respective ones of all the other segments in the set are predetermined independent of the start or end track of that data segment.

36. (Original) The pattern of claim 21 wherein the segments are recorded so as to obtain a substantially deterministic data transfer rate to and from the data storage media.

37-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Original) A data storage device comprising:

(a) recording media having at least a recording surface for storing information according to a data storage pattern including at least one set of segments for storing user data in concentric data tracks on the recording surface, wherein each segment includes a start, an end and a rotational phase from that segment to each of the respective

ones of all other segments in the set such that the segments have coherent relative rotational phases;

(b) at least one data transducer assembly for reading and/or writing data to the recording surface of the media;

10 (c) a servo circuit for controlling an actuator to position the transducer assembly at segments on the recording surface; and

(d) a controller adapted for transferring data to and from said segments on the recording surface, wherein: (1) during data storing operations in each segment, the controller controls the transducer via the servo circuit to record data in that segment, such
15 that data is stored in the segments on the recording surface with coherent phase, and (2) during data retrieval operations from each segment, the controller controls the transducer via the servo circuit to retrieve data from each segment.

51. (Original) The storage device of claim 50, wherein each segment further includes: (i) a relative start phase from the start of that segment to the start of each of the respective ones of all other segments in the set, and (ii) a relative end phase from the end of that segment to each of the respective ones of all other segments in the set, wherein the
5 segments have coherent relative start phases and coherent relative end phases.

52. (Original) The storage device of claim 51 wherein for each segment in the set: said relative start, end and rotational phases of that segment to respective ones of all other segments in the set are predetermined.

53. (Original) The storage device of claim 51, wherein for each segment in the set the rotational phase from the end of that segment relative to the start of each of the respective ones of other segments in the set has one of a limited number of predetermined values.

54. (Original) The storage device of claim 53, wherein for each segment in the set: the relative rotational phases from that segment to respective ones of a first subset of the segments in the set have one of said predetermined values, and the relative rotational phase from that segment to respective ones of a second subset of the segments in the set
5 have another of said predetermined values.

55. (Original) The storage device of claim 53, wherein for each segment in the set the relative rotational phases from that segment to respective ones of the other segments in the set are the same.

56. (Original) The storage device of claim 50, wherein each segment includes one or more tracks.

57. (Original) The storage device of claim 56, wherein tracks in each segment in the set are offset by a predetermined skew angle, wherein said predetermined skew angle is selected to minimize rotational latency as the transducer is positioned over adjacent tracks within a segment.

58. (Original) The storage device of claim 50, wherein each track includes one or more segments.

59. (Original) The storage device of claim 58, wherein for each segment in the set the rotational phase from the end of that segment relative to the start of each of the other segments in the set has one of a limited number of predetermined values.

60. (Original) The storage device of claim 58 further comprising one or more concentric recording zones, each recording zone including a plurality of tracks, such that at least in one recording zone each track includes the same number of segments therein.

61. (Original) The storage device of claim 50, wherein for each segment in the set: said relative rotational phases of that segment to respective ones of all the other segments in the set are predetermined independent of the start or end track of that data segment.

62. (Original) The storage device of claim 50 wherein the segments are recorded so as to obtain a substantially deterministic data transfer rate to and from the data storage media.

63. (Original) The storage device of claim 50, wherein:

(i) the controller includes at least one seek profile, for generating actuator current commands based on the seek profile to perform at least one seek operation from a

starting segment to a destination segment, the seek profile including constraints for the
5 seek operation as a function of: (1) a seek distance representing the radial distance
between the starting and destination segments, and (2) a seek time based at least on the
relative rotational phase between the starting and destination segments; and

(ii) the servo circuit include a driver coupled to controller, wherein the
driver receives the at least one current command value to generate an input current to the
10 actuator as a function of said constraints to perform the seek operation.

64. (Previously presented) The storage device of claim 63, wherein the seek
profile includes constraints as a function of the seek distance and the seek time for the
seek operation, such that: (1) each seek operation is completed at the expiration of the
respective seek time, and (2) for at least one set of seek distances, the respective seek
5 times are predetermined.

65. (Previously presented) The storage device of claim 64, wherein for at least a
subset of the data segments, respective inter-segment seek times are the same.

66. (Previously presented) The storage device of claim 64, wherein each of said
respective seek times has one of a limited number of predetermined values.

67. (Previously presented) The storage device of claim 64, wherein, for each seek
operation, the controller further obtains actuator current level and transducer motion
constraints based on the seek time and the seek distance for that seek operation, and the

driver applies current to the actuator as a function of at least the current level and the
5 transducer motion constraints to complete the seek operation at the expiration of the seek
time.

68. (Previously presented) The storage device of claim 64, wherein the seek time
constraint corresponding to each seek operation is based on the relative rotational phase
from the end of the starting segment to the start of the destination segment for the seek
operation.

69. (Previously presented) The storage device of claim 64, wherein the seek time
constraint corresponding to each seek operation is based on a rotation time from the end
of the starting segment to the start of the destination segment, wherein the rotation time is
a function of the relative rotational phase from the end of the starting segment to the start
5 of the destination segment for the seek operation.

70. (Previously presented) The storage device of claim 63, wherein for each
segment in the set: said relative start, end and rotational phases of that segment to
respective ones of all other segments in the set are predetermined.

71. (Previously presented) The storage device of claim 63, further comprising
means for receiving one or more incoming data streams and partitioning each incoming
data stream into data segments for storage in the storage device.

72. (Original) The storage device of claim 71, further comprising means for combining data segments read from the storage device to reformulate one or more output data streams.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the rotational phase from one data segment to other data segments is selected as a function of the number of tracks in each data segment, and any skew angle between said tracks, wherein the skew angle defines a circumferential offset between the tracks in each data segment.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the rotational phase R from the end of a data segment to the start of any other data segment is $R=360-(N-1)\alpha$, where N is the number of tracks in a data segment and α is the skew angle between tracks within a data segment.

75. (Currently amended) In a data storage system including data storage media having at least one rotatable recording surface, a method for storing data segments to said recording surface in concentric data tracks, comprising the steps of:

5 recording at least one set of data segments onto said recording surface, each recorded data segment including a start, an end and a rotational phase from that data segment to each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, wherein the data segments are recorded with coherent relative rotational phases;

wherein each track includes one or more data segments such that for each data segment in the set the rotational phase for that data segment relative to each of the other

10 data segments in the set has one of a limited number of predetermined values, wherein
the segments are recorded so as to obtain a nearly constant data storage transfer rate when
transferring data to and/or from the segments.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the step of recording
the data segments further includes the steps of recording the data segments such that for
each data segment in the set the rotational phase from the end of that data segment
relative to the start of each of the other data segments in the set has one of the limited
5 number of predetermined values.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the step of recording
the data segments further includes the steps of recording the data segments in one or
more concentric recording zones, each recording zone including a plurality of tracks,
such that at least in one recording zone each track includes the same number of segments
5 therein.

78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, further comprising the steps
of receiving one or more incoming data streams and partitioning each incoming data
stream into data segments before recording on the media.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein the step of partitioning each data stream further comprises the steps of partitioning that data stream into data segments of equal size.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79 further comprising the steps of:

reading the recorded data segments from the storage media, and reformulating said one or more data streams from the read data segments.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the relative rotational phases from each data segment to respective ones of a first subset of the data segments in the set have one of said predetermined values, and the relative rotational phase from that data segment to respective ones of a second subset of the data segments in the set have another of said predetermined values.

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83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes recording the data segments on the storage media so as to obtain a substantially deterministic data transfer rate to and from the data storage media.

84. (Currently amended) A data storage pattern for storing information on a recording surface of recording media in a storage system, said pattern including at least one set of segments for storing user data in concentric data tracks on the recording

surface, wherein each segment includes a start, an end and a rotational phase from that
5 segment to each of the respective ones of all other segments in the set such that the
segments have coherent relative rotational phases,

wherein each track includes one or more data segments and for each data segment
in the set the rotational phase for that data segment relative to each of the other data
segments in the set has one of a limited number of predetermined values, wherein the
10 relative rotational phases from that data segment to respective ones of a first subset of the
data segments in the set have one of said predetermined values, and the relative rotational
phases from that data segment to respective ones of a second subset of the data segments
in the set have another of said predetermined values,

wherein the segments are recorded so as to obtain a nearly constant data storage
15 transfer rate when transferring data to and/or from the segments.

85. (Previously presented) The pattern of claim 84, wherein for each segment in
the set: the rotational phases from that segment to respective ones of all other segments in
the set comprise the rotational phases from the end of that segment to the start of the
respective ones of all other segments in the set.

86. (Cancelled)

87. (Previously presented) The pattern of claim 84, wherein for each segment in
the set the relative rotational phases from that segment to respective ones of the other
segments in the set are the same.

88. (Previously presented) The pattern of claim 84 further comprising one or more concentric recording zones, each recording zone including a plurality of tracks, such that at least in one recording zone each track includes the same number of segments therein.

89. (Previously presented) The pattern of claim 84, wherein the segments are recorded so as to obtain a substantially deterministic data storage transfer rate when transferring data to and/or from the segments.

90. (New) In a data storage system including data storage media having at least one rotatable recording surface, a method for storing data segments to said recording surface in concentric data tracks, comprising the steps of:

5 recording at least one set of data segments onto said recording surface, each recorded data segment including a start, an end and a rotational phase from that data segment to each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, wherein the data segments are recorded with coherent relative rotational phases, wherein each data segment includes one or more tracks, and wherein the segments are recorded so as to obtain a nearly constant data storage transfer rate when transferring data to and/or from
10 the segments.

91. (New) In a data storage system including data storage media having at least one rotatable recording surface, a method for storing data segments to said recording surface in concentric data tracks, comprising the steps of:

5 recording at least one set of data segments onto said recording surface, each
recorded data segment including a start, an end and a rotational phase from that data
segment to each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, wherein the
data segments are recorded with coherent relative rotational phases, wherein each data
segment includes one or more tracks;

10 receiving one or more incoming data streams; and,
partitioning each incoming data stream into data segments before recording on
the media, wherein each data segment includes one or more tracks in size.

92. (New) In a data storage system including data storage media having at least
one rotatable recording surface, a method for storing data segments to said recording
surface in concentric data tracks, comprising the steps of:

5 recording at least one set of data segments onto said recording surface, each
recorded data segment including a start, an end and a rotational phase from that data
segment to each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, wherein the
data segments are recorded with coherent relative rotational phases, wherein each data
segment includes one or more tracks, wherein the data segments are recorded such that
each data segment further has: (i) a relative start phase from the start of that data segment
10 to the start of each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, and (ii) a
relative end phase from the end of that data segment to each of the respective ones of all
other data segments in the set, wherein the data segments are recorded with coherent
relative start phases and coherent relative end phases,

wherein for each data segment in the set: the rotational phases from that data
15 segment to respective ones of all other data segments in the set comprise the rotational
phases from the end of that data segment to the start of the respective ones of all other
data segments in the set,

wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes the steps of
recording the data segments such that for each data segment in the set the rotational phase
20 for that data segment relative to each of the other data segments in the set has one of a
limited number of predetermined values,

wherein the step of recording the data segments further includes the steps of
recording the data segments such that for each data segment in the set: the relative
rotational phases from that data segment to respective ones of a first subset of the data
25 segments in the set have one of said predetermined values, and the relative rotational
phase from that data segment to respective ones of a second subset of the data segments
in the set have another of said predetermined values.

93. (New) In a data storage system including data storage media having at least
one rotatable recording surface, a method for storing data segments to said recording
surface in concentric data tracks, comprising the steps of:

recording at least one set of data segments onto said recording surface, each
5 recorded data segment including a start, an end and a rotational phase from that data
segment to each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, wherein the
data segments are recorded with coherent relative rotational phases, wherein each data
segment includes one or more tracks,

wherein the rotational phase from one data segment to other data segments is
10 selected as a function of the number of tracks in each data segment, and any skew angle
between said tracks, wherein the skew angle defines a circumferential offset between the
tracks in each data segment and wherein the rotational phase R from the end of a data
segment to the start of any other data segment is $R=360-(N-1)\alpha$, where N is the number
of tracks in a data segment and where α is the skew angle between tracks within a data
15 segment.

94. (New) In a data storage system including data storage media having at least
one rotatable recording surface, a method for storing data segments to said recording
surface in concentric data tracks, comprising the steps of:

recording at least one set of data segments onto said recording surface, each
5 recorded data segment including a start, an end and a rotational phase from that data
segment to each of the respective ones of all other data segments in the set, wherein the
data segments are recorded with coherent relative rotational phases;

wherein each track includes one or more data segments such that for each data
segment in the set the rotational phase for that data segment relative to each of the other
10 data segments in the set has one of a limited number of predetermined values, wherein
the relative rotational phases from each data segment to respective ones of a first subset
of the data segments in the set have one of said predetermined values, and the relative
rotational phase from that data segment to respective ones of a second subset of the data
segments in the set have another of said predetermined values.